

In re MAMILLAPALLI ET AL., Application No. 10/721,939
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REMARKS

The non-final Office action dated May 27, 2005, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the consideration of the submitted references, and the return of the signed and dated 1449 indicating such due consideration.

Applicants appreciate the notification that claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 25, and 26 were allowable if re-written in independent form. As such, independent claim 35 is added herein with the limitations of original claims 1, 2 and 3; and new claim 36 is added to depend from new claim 35 with the limitations of original claim 4. Support for new claims 35 and 36 are provided at least by original claims 3 and 4. Claims 35 and 36 are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons the Office indicated in the Office action that claims 3 and 4 were allowable.

Applicants appreciate the Office detecting typographical errors and for presenting suggested corrections. Applicants respectfully request all claim objections be withdrawn as claims 5, 17 and 27 are canceled herein, and claims 11 and 12 are corrected herein.

In response to the claim rejections, the Office construed the claims broadly in light of the disclosure of the originally filed application. In rejecting the claims, the Office relied on the address of a message (typically a broadcast message) as the indication of which node(s) are designated to acknowledge the message as taught by the prior art of record. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 23, and 29 to recite that the indication of which node(s) to acknowledge the message is distinct from the address of the message, with new claim 37 including such a limitation; and claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 29 are amended to define that the recited multicast address is a non-broadcast address. Support for these amendments is at least provided by FIG. 4A and its discussion on page 19 of the originally filed specification, as FIG. 4A shows a message of one embodiment with distinct fields of the destination address (402), nodes to acknowledge (403), and indication of whether to immediately or delayed acknowledgement (404). Additionally, claims 1, 7, 13, and 23 are amended to recite that the

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number of nodes indicated to acknowledge the message is less than all the nodes to which the address corresponds, with new claim 37 including this limitations, with support additionally provided at least by original claims 5, 17 and 27 (e.g., from original claim 5 "wherein the indication of said one or more of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the message indicates less than all of the plurality of nodes").

Similarly, in rejecting the claims, the Office relied on whether the address of a message corresponded to a single node or multiple nodes and their different handling in immediately or randomly acknowledging a message as taught by the prior art of record. Applicants have amended claims 2, 9, 11, 12, 14, 24, and 31 to recite that the address of the message is distinct from the indication of whether to acknowledge immediately or delay acknowledgement, and new claim 38 is added with such a limitation. Support for these amendments is at least provided by FIG. 4A and its discussion on page 19 of the originally filed specification, as FIG. 4A shows a message of one embodiment with distinct fields of the destination address (402), nodes to acknowledge (403), and indication of whether to immediately or delayed acknowledgement (404).

Further in regards to the new claims added herein, claim 33 corresponds to original claim 4, but is added as new claim 33 to depend directly from claim 2 (rather than from claims 2 and 3), and claim 34 is added to depend from claim 1 to recite that the limitation of claim 1 of one or more of the plurality of nodes includes at least two nodes. A new claim set of independent claim 37 and its dependent claims 38-40 is added herein. Support for independent claim 37 and dependent claim 38 was discussed *supra*. Support for new claim includes original claim 3 and 4 which the Office indicated as allowable subject matter. And support for the limitation of claim 40 that or more of the plurality of nodes includes at least two nodes was discussed *supra*.

Note, of course, the listing of the claims recites the exact limitations of each of these claims, and is controlling if there would be a mistake in the Remarks section in describing a claim.

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As each of the pending claims includes one of these discussed limitations that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art of record, all claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, applicants respectfully request all objections and rejections be withdrawn and all pending claims be allowed, with the case passed to issuance. At least some of the reasons that each of the pending claim set are believed to be allowable are discussed more specifically *infra*.

Independent claim 1 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, the multicast address is a non-broadcast address, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 6, 33 and 34 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 7 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, the multicast address is a non-broadcast address, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-10 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 11 includes the limitation that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests this limitation, independent claim 11 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 12 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message, which is a non-broadcast message. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests these limitations, independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable.

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Independent claim 13 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-16 and 18 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 19 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, the multicast address is a non-broadcast address, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-22 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 23 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 23 and its dependent claims 24-26 and 28 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 29 includes the limitations that the multicast address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, the multicast address is a non-broadcast address, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 29 and its dependent claims 30-32 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claims 35 and its dependent claim 36 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons the Office indicated in the Office action that claims 3 and 4 were allowable.

Independent claim 37 includes the limitations that the address is distinct from the indication of the nodes to acknowledge the message, and the indicated number of nodes to acknowledge the message is less than the number of nodes to which the message is addressed.

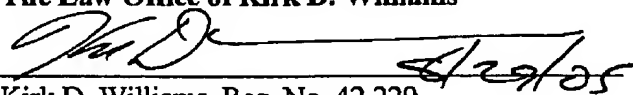
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As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all of these limitations, independent claim 37 and its dependent claims 38-40 are believed to be allowable.

Final Remarks. In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. Applicant requests any and all rejections and/or objections be withdrawn. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Applicants believe no extension of time is required, but hereby petitions any such extension of time required and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any associated fees to Deposit Account No. 501430. Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time. Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due any under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and § 1.17 associated with this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501430.

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Respectfully submitted,
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